

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I am writing in support of the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. Many consumers feel as I do -- annoyed with a long list of new charges and frustrated with trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand, without surcharges with misleading names that dishonestly imply the line items are mandated by law. Because the FCC tolerates this practice, consumers are denied true marketplace competition. Those individual states are addressing the problem, the FCC should not be allowed to shirk it. It should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.